

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. Bills should be truthful and easy to understand because there is no point in deceiving anyone about how much phones cost because we pretty much all use them and the phone companies are always going to have business. I don't know what the motivation is for deception other than some sort of greed based profit line. If that is in the best interest of the public then you should allow these companies to continue with their deception. However, anyone with a functioning brain knows that deception does not benefit the public it only enrages it. So my guess is that the public would appreciate it if you guys could help us out by keeping the phone companies honest.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.